



Always Fresh: Fast Content For Library Web Site with Really Simple Syndication (RSS) – Darlene Fichter



Our Catalogue | Ask a Librarian


Delivering information – supporting learning

Always Fresh: Fast Content For Library Web Sites with Really Simple Syndication (RSS)



Darlene Fichter
University of Saskatchewan

February 3, 2005



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Overview

- ◆ What is RSS?
- ◆ RSS Versions
- ◆ Libraries and RSS
- ◆ Tools to publish RSS




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RSS Definitions

- ◆ A “machine readable web page”
- ◆ Rich Site Summary
- ◆ Really Simple Syndication
- ◆ RDF Site Summary
- ◆ Web site news feed
 - Easy way to syndicate news headlines
 - Way to get automated updates of web site changes



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RSS Makes Syndication Available to Everyone

- ◆ Before RSS
 - Few wire services and a few channels
 - Writers worked for traditional media outlets
- ◆ With RSS
 - Everyone can be a “news” publisher
 - Everyone can be a “news” writer/producer

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Who “Consumes” RSS feeds?

- ◆ Individuals with an RSS Newsreader
- ◆ Webmasters who want to publish feeds on their site (fresh food)
- ◆ News aggregators

5% of internet users say they use RSS aggregators
Pew Internet and Life

Readers

Desktop

Sharpreader

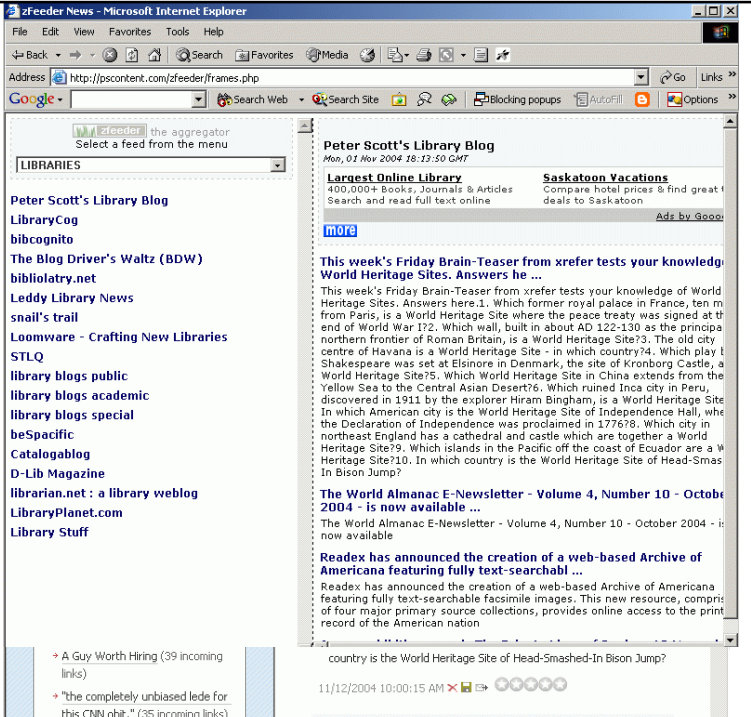
Web (hosted)


Bloglines

Newsgator

Web (local install)


zFeeder






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RSS Syntax

- ◆ RSS file has two major placeholders for data:
 - Channel
 - Items
- ◆ Extended descriptions in version 2.0
 - Through the use of additional namespaces
 - ◆ Blogging
 - ◆ Dublin core classification




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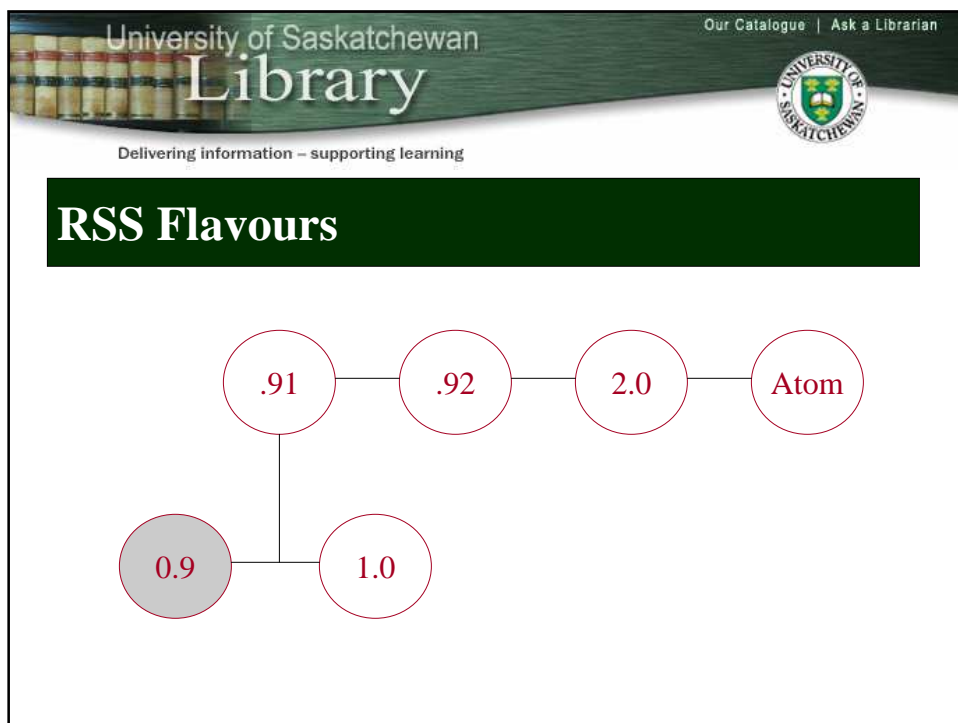


Item elements

```
<item>
<title>Full Text Now Available for Theses and Dissertations</title>
<link>http://library.usask.ca/news/2005_01.html</link>
<description>The University of Saskatchewan Library has recently
purchased the full-text version of Proquest Dissertations and Theses
(formerly called Proquest Digital...</description>
<guid isPermaLink="false">174@http://library.usask.ca/news/</guid>
<dc:subject />
<dc:date>2005-01-18T14:13:08-06:00</dc:date>
</item>
```



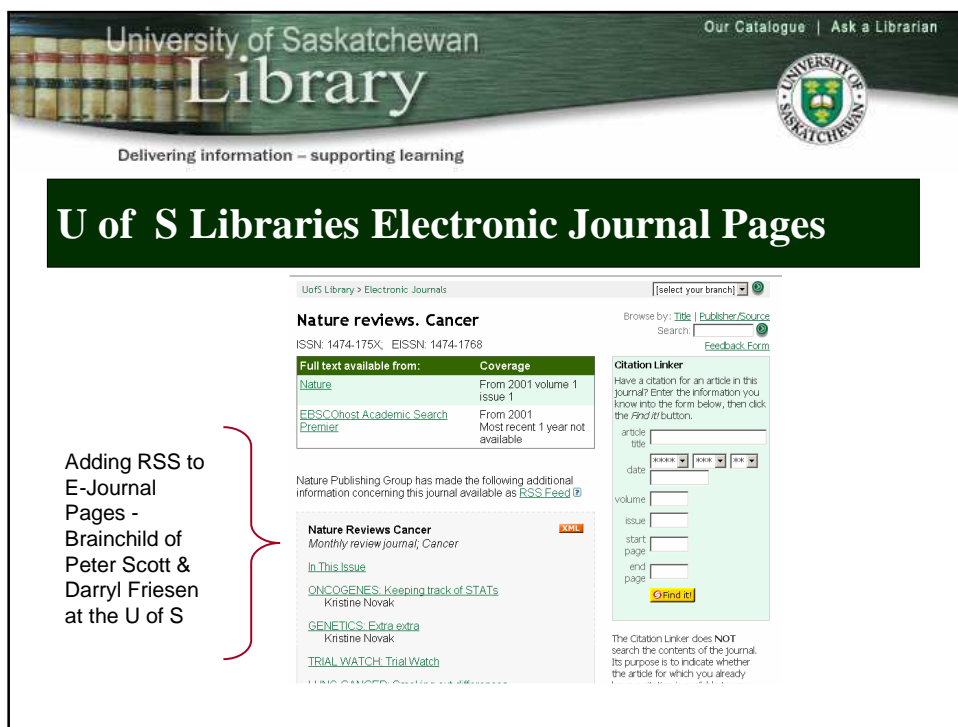
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RSS Flavours

A diagram showing the evolution of RSS versions: 0.9, 1.0, .91, .92, 2.0, and Atom. The versions are arranged in a sequence from left to right, with 0.9 and 1.0 below the main line, and .91, .92, 2.0, and Atom above it. The 0.9 version is shaded grey, while the others are white with red outlines.



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U of S Libraries Electronic Journal Pages

UofS Library > Electronic Journals [select your branch]

Nature reviews. Cancer
ISSN: 1474-175X; EISSN: 1474-1768

Full text available from:	Coverage
Nature	From 2001 volume 1 issue 1
EBSCOhost Academic Search Premier	From 2001 Most recent 1 year not available

Nature Publishing Group has made the following additional information concerning this journal available as [RSS Feed](#)

- [Nature Reviews Cancer](#) XML
Monthly review journal, Cancer
- [In This Issue](#)
- [ONCOGENES: Keeping track of STATs](#)
Kirstine Novak
- [GENETICS: Extra extra](#)
Kirstine Novak
- [TRIAL WATCH: Trial Watch](#)


Citation Linker
Have a citation for an article in this journal? Enter the information you know into the form below, then click the *Find It!* button.

article title:
date: [****] [****] [**]
volume:
issue:
start page:
end page:

The Citation Linker does NOT search the contents of the journal. Its purpose is to indicate whether the article for which you already

Adding RSS to E-Journal Pages - Brainchild of Peter Scott & Darryl Friesen at the U of S

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The screenshot shows the University of Saskatchewan Library website. At the top, it says "University of Saskatchewan Library" and "Delivering information – supporting learning". The main heading is "Browse by Publisher/Source". Below this, there is a navigation bar with "UoS Library > Electronic Journals" and a search box. The page lists 15 electronic journal publishers/sources available, including AIP Scitation (72 journals), Allen Press Miscellaneous (3 journals), American Chemical Society (45 journals), American Fisheries Society (4 journals), American Mathematical Society (9 journals), American Medical Association (1 journal), American Physical Society (14 journals), American Physical Society [PROMA] (8 journals), Annual Reviews (41 journals), Association for Computing Machinery (63 journals), Berkeley Electronic Press (3 journals), BioMed Central (104 journals), BioOne (68 journals), Caliber (16 journals), and Cambridge University Press (183 journals).



The screenshot shows the University of Saskatchewan Library website. At the top, it says "University of Saskatchewan Library" and "Delivering information – supporting learning". The main heading is "Tools". Below this, there is a list of tools:

- ◆ Database driven site
- ◆ PHP
- ◆ **MagpieRSS** – Parser for PHP
 - <http://magpierss.sourceforge.net/>
 - Handles most type of feeds
- ◆ MagpieRSS will provide with an associative array that you can decide how to format





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Darryl's Sample Script

- ◆ Run script
 - ◆ http://library.usask.ca/~fichter/rss/magpie_test.php
- ◆ See the code
 - ◆ http://library.usask.ca/~fichter/rss/magpie_sample.html




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Louisville Library: Recent Acquisitions


Updated: 2003-02-14

UofL Libraries - RSS Feeds - College of Arts & Sciences		
Aerospace	RSS	VALID
Anthropology	RSS	VALID
Biology	RSS	VALID
Chemistry	RSS	VALID
Classical and Modern Languages	RSS	VALID
Communications	RSS	VALID
English	RSS	VALID
Fine Arts	RSS	VALID
Geography	RSS	VALID
History	RSS	VALID
Humanities	RSS	VALID
Justice	RSS	VALID
Linguistics	RSS	VALID
Pan African Studies	RSS	VALID
Philosophy	RSS	VALID
Physics	RSS	VALID
Political Science	RSS	VALID
Psychological & Brains Sciences	RSS	VALID
Religious Studies	RSS	VALID
Russian (Slavic) Studies	RSS	VALID
Sociology	RSS	VALID
Theatre Arts	RSS	VALID
Women's Studies	RSS	VALID




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Queries of Voyager System

- ◆ Daily at 6 a.m., a scheduled job creates a MS Access database that has information about any item in our Voyager system that has been acquired in the last 100 days
- ◆ PHP scripts query the Recent Acquisitions database, and create the XML files for the RSS feeds. This happens every morning after the database is created.



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New Books Tomorrow

- ◆ Sirsi announced it is developing RSS feeds out of the catalog

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News Page and RSS Feeds

UofS Library > Data Files & GIS

Data Files & GIS Library Services

How To Find a Data File

1. [Search the Catalogue](#)
 - o Use web browser
 - o Enter the search criteria
 - o Use the search form
2. [Search the Statistics Canada Catalogue](#)
 - o If you locate a survey, scan the entry to see if the data file is available under the Data Liberation Initiative (DLI) program.
 - o If it is, just ask the [Data Library staff](#) to retrieve it.
3. [Ask us for help locating files.](#)

GIS and Digital Maps

- [Browse GIS collections.](#)

Data Library News

- [2001 Census Technical Report - Unpaid Work](#) now available
- [2001 Census Technical Report - Sampling and Weighting](#) now available
- [Statistics Canada Conference 2005](#)
- [National Road Network](#)
- [ArcGIS Demonstration](#)
- [Search 3 million aerial photographs](#)
- [Northern Township Fabric MAP - NTFM v1.0-August 1999](#)
- [Health Public Use Microdata Files \(PUMF\) expected release dates](#)
- [Data Library Services has moved](#)

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Data Library

- ◆ Uses Moveable Type to create the news
- ◆ Automatically creates an RSS feed

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Reaching Beyond Our Users

- ◆ Karen Schneider
- ◆ “Donning my lii.org hat, we had a remarkable education when we added RSS feeds. Now people find us through the blog-finding agents. Librarians, including me, suck at marketing, but by adding RSS feeds, we stumbled onto a way for the audience to find us, instead of the glacially slow process of dissemination through our existing readership.”

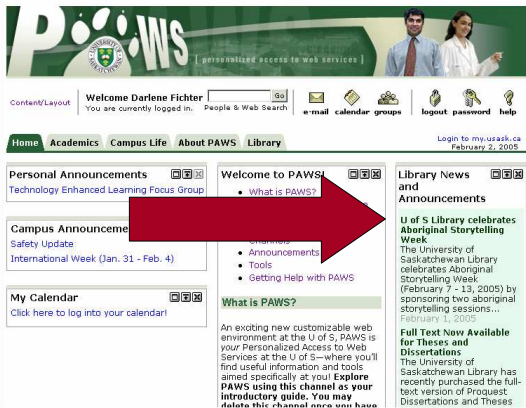


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Be Seen: Campus Portal




The screenshot shows the PAWS campus portal interface. A large red arrow points to the 'Welcome to PAWS' section, which includes a list of links: 'Announcements', 'Tools', and 'Getting Help with PAWS'. Below this, there is a 'What is PAWS?' section with a brief description of the service. To the right, there is a 'Library News and Announcements' section with a headline: 'U of S Library celebrates Aboriginal Storytelling Week'. The interface also features a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Academics', 'Campus Life', 'About PAWS', and 'Library' tabs, and a user profile section for 'Darlene Fichter'.




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Library News in UPortal

- ◆ Syndicate your news
- ◆ Let people update news with a blog
 - We use Moveable Type
- ◆ Presto – instant RSS feeds for your campus or corporate-wide portal




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Always Fresh – Populate that Web Site

- ◆ Feeds, feeds, and more feeds
 - Spot the orange button 
- ◆ RSS/Weblog search sites
 - Technorati.com
 - Feedster.com
 - Daypop.com
 - Newsisfree.com
 - Feedster.com
- ◆ Peter Scott's RSS Compendium Blog
 - <http://ast.antville.org/>

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Institute of Physics

Really Simple Syndication (RSS)

IoP | Syndication.iop.org

RSS Channels | About RSS | RSS Software | Feedback

Recently Updated | By Category | By Site

What is RSS?
Really Simple Syndication (RSS) is an XML-based format for content distribution. iop.org offers several RSS feeds with headlines, descriptions and links back to the relevant Web site for the full story.
We encourage you to use these feeds. There are no restrictions, except that you do not post our full-text stories.
Please read the Terms and Conditions of our RSS 0.91 or RSS 1.0 link to get the corresponding feed.

Recently updated channels

Inverse Problems latest papers	RSS 0.91	RSS 1.0
JUSTAT latest papers	RSS 0.91	RSS 1.0
SUST latest papers	RSS 0.91	RSS 1.0
New Journal of Physics latest papers	RSS 0.91	RSS 1.0
Physiol. Meas. latest papers	RSS 0.91	RSS 1.0
PSST latest papers	RSS 0.91	RSS 1.0
Nuclear Fusion latest papers	RSS 0.91	RSS 1.0
Class. Quantum Grav. latest papers	RSS 0.91	RSS 1.0
Nanotechnology latest papers	RSS 0.91	RSS 1.0
JHEP latest papers	RSS 0.91	RSS 1.0
Nonlinearity latest papers	RSS 0.91	RSS 1.0
Compound Semiconductor net News	RSS 0.91	RSS 1.0
Nanotechweb.org Jobs	RSS 0.91	RSS 1.0
Nanotechweb.org News	RSS 0.91	RSS 1.0

<http://syndication.iop.org/>

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New York Times – Ok for non-commercial

The New York Times RSS

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Home | Site Map | About Us | Contact Us

Get The New York Times for as Low as \$2.99 a Week.

NYTimes.com RSS feeds
Really Simple Syndication (RSS) is an XML-based format for content distribution. NYTimes.com offers several RSS feeds for use in news readers and Weblogs. These feeds include headlines, summaries and links back to NYTimes.com for the full article. RSS feeds are free and NYTimes.com currently offers RSS 2.0.
For more information about RSS and descriptions of various news readers, visit the New York Times Web site: "What's New" under "Data and Information".

How to sign up for NYTimes.com RSS feeds
Click on the below content area(s) you're interested in subscribing to, and follow the instructions to add to your news reader or your personal Web Catalog page.

NYTimes.com Newsletter RSS
Arts RSS
Automobiles RSS
Books RSS

Most E-mailed Articles RSS
Music News RSS
October 2005 News RSS

How to access RSS feeds
There are a number of ways to access RSS feeds. You can install a news reader that displays RSS feeds from the Web. Also you can read each feed manually from the Web site by clicking on the "Subscribe" or the "Web" language button next to the feed.
An alternative to downloading a dedicated news reader is to use a Web browser news reader. For example, MSN 2005 users can now add RSS feeds directly to their personal page.

Save 50% on Home Delivery of The New York Times.

Terms for NYTimes.com RSS feeds
We encourage the use of NYTimes.com RSS feeds for personal use in a news reader or as part of a non-commercial Web site or blog. We require proper format and attribution whenever New York Times content is posted on your Web site, and we reserve the right to require that you cease using our NYTimes.com content. Please read the Terms and Conditions for complete instructions.

<http://www.nytimes.com/services/xml/rss/>

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The Guardian – Read the fine print

The Guardian Unlimited front page
UK latest
World latest
Guardian Unlimited Sport
Guardian Unlimited Football
Guardian Unlimited Life
Guardian Unlimited Arts
Guardian Unlimited Books
Guardian Unlimited Film news
Guardian Unlimited Life
Guardian Unlimited Newsblog
Guardian Unlimited Onlineblog
Guardian Unlimited Gamesblog
Guardian Unlimited Guideblog

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Guardian Headline Service

Public / Guardian Unlimited

Headline service

Simply select the headlines you are interested in from the selection below, then click on the proceed button at the bottom of the page. Once you have registered to use the service and you have read and agreed to its terms and conditions we will email you with URLs for your selected headlines, a Guardian Unlimited logo, and detailed set-up instructions. If you encounter any problems you should consult our [technical help pages](#).

If you run or represent a commercial operation you may still be eligible to use the Guardian Unlimited headline service. To enable us to assess your request please complete [this form](#).


moneyheadlines
The latest headlines from Guardian Unlimited Money.
 Today's money headlines
Please do not forget to check ATM.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/headlineservice>

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RSS Feeds for News Searches

moreover ●●●

330 advertising supported feeds

Link	Full name	Feed URL
moreover	Arts and culture news	http://p.moreover.com/cgi-local/page?entarts%20and%20culture%20news%20rss%2002
moreover	Consumer book reviews	http://p.moreover.com/cgi-local/page?consumer%20book%20reviews%20rss%2002
moreover	Entertainment TV show news	http://p.moreover.com/cgi-local/page?entertainment%20tv%20show%20news%20rss%2002
moreover	Entertainment film reviews	http://p.moreover.com/cgi-local/page?entertainment%20film%20reviews%20rss%2002
moreover	Entertainment general news	http://p.moreover.com/cgi-local/page?entertainment%20general%20news%20rss%2002
moreover	Entertainment gossip	http://p.moreover.com/cgi-local/page?entertainment%20gossip%20rss%2002
moreover	Jokes	http://p.moreover.com/cgi-local/page?jokes%20rss%2002
moreover	MP3 news	http://p.moreover.com/cgi-local/page?mp3%20news%20rss%2002
moreover	Entertainment movie news	http://p.moreover.com/cgi-local/page?entertainment%20movie%20news%20rss%2002
moreover	Entertainment movie reviews	http://p.moreover.com/cgi-local/page?entertainment%20movie%20reviews%20rss%2002
moreover	Pop music news	http://p.moreover.com/cgi-local/page?pop%20music%20news%20rss%2002
moreover	Pop music reviews	http://p.moreover.com/cgi-local/page?pop%20music%20reviews%20rss%2002
moreover	UK tabloid news	http://p.moreover.com/cgi-local/page?uk%20tabloid%20news%20rss%2002
moreover	Videogame news	http://p.moreover.com/cgi-local/page?videogame%20news%20rss%2002

http://w.moreover.com/categories/category_list_rss.html

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RSS Feeds for News Searches: Canned or Custom

Yahoo! NEWS Sign In Sign Up

Yahoo! News (Wed, Feb 10, 2005) Search All News Search

News Home Top Stories U.S. National Business World Entertainment Sports Technology Politics Science Health Daily Enough OutE Local Comics News Photos Most Popular Weather Audio/Video

RSS

What is RSS?
 RSS (Really Simple Syndication) is an XML-based format for distributing and aggregating Web content (such as news headlines).

Using RSS, Web content providers can easily create and disseminate feeds of data that include, for example, news links, headlines, and summaries. Other sites using RSS to deliver content to a wider audience include Christian Science Monitor and CNET News.com.

What kind of content does Yahoo! News syndicate via RSS?
 Yahoo! News is now offering the following feeds in the RSS format. The feeds are free of charge to use for individuals and non-profit organizations for non-commercial use. Attribution (included in each feed) is required.

Top Stories: RSS My Yahoo!
 U.S. National: RSS My Yahoo!
 World: RSS My Yahoo!

Create your own RSS news feeds now
 You can now create your own custom RSS feeds using Yahoo! News Search. Use the search box below to enter in your search term.


Search

The feeds are provided free of charge for use by individuals and non-profit organizations for personal, non-commercial uses. We ask that you provide attribution to Yahoo! News in connection with your use of the feeds.

<http://news.yahoo.com/rss>


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New MSN Search

◆ Not permitted except for readers



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Tools to Display Your Feeds

◆ RSS2HTML (hosted)

- <http://www.rss2html.com/>
- Webpage will always show the RSS feed's most current data
 1. select a layout
 2. select a color scheme
 3. enter URL of RSS feed
 4. add the generated URL to your website to display RSS





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Sample Layout: 2 column

Horses for Sale
Providing the horse industry with the most effective way of buying and selling horses.

 <p>White Appaloosa Horse 12/03/2004</p>	<p>15.3 H. Appaloosa only 2 years young, needs training. Has lots of energy and is a handful under saddle. Great project for Juniors. Very willing and eager. \$ 6,000</p>	 <p>Mare & Filly 12/03/2004</p>	<p>This beautiful mother daughter chestnut pair will brighten your barn. Husband's last job has tightened the budget and limited time. Mare is a regional winner with good lines - \$ 50 K - Call Jen 688-555-1212</p>
 <p>Well Mannered</p>	<p>This experienced gelding, knows how to take care and train up</p>	 <p>White Mini Horse</p>	<p>Pretty mare, that shows well. Cute and trusting, tons of potential. \$ 6,500.</p>

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RSS2HTML (installed)

- ◆ Written in PHP
- ◆ Different layout choices
- ◆ Embed it in your page design

RSS Blog & RSS News

RSS Software Site 02/01/2005
A new RSS site has launched. [RSS Software](#) solutions including RSS scripts for syndication, RSS aggregators, RSS editors, RSS parsers and scrapers. Site includes software reviews, version information and related RSS news.

RSS2HTML Service 01/31/2005
Free RSS2HTML service. [RSS2HTML](#) provides users a very easy way to display feeds as HTML. Select a layout and color scheme and your feeds will be displayed on [RSS2HTML.com](#).

Great Article and Interview on Master New Media 01/28/2005
Robin Good did an incredible write-up and interview, mentioning RSS Specifications. The article [Smart Online Marketing](#) talks about RSS, content creation, syndication and online marketing. Thanks for a great article Robin!

Displaying RSS Feeds 01/27/2005
More and more people are asking us how to display RSS feeds. The answer it depends! Here are some free useful sources for displaying RSS.

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Feed2JS (hosted or locally installed)

Powered by
Magpie RSS

Paste one line
of JavaScript
in your web
page



<http://jade.mcli.dist.maricopa.edu/feed/>

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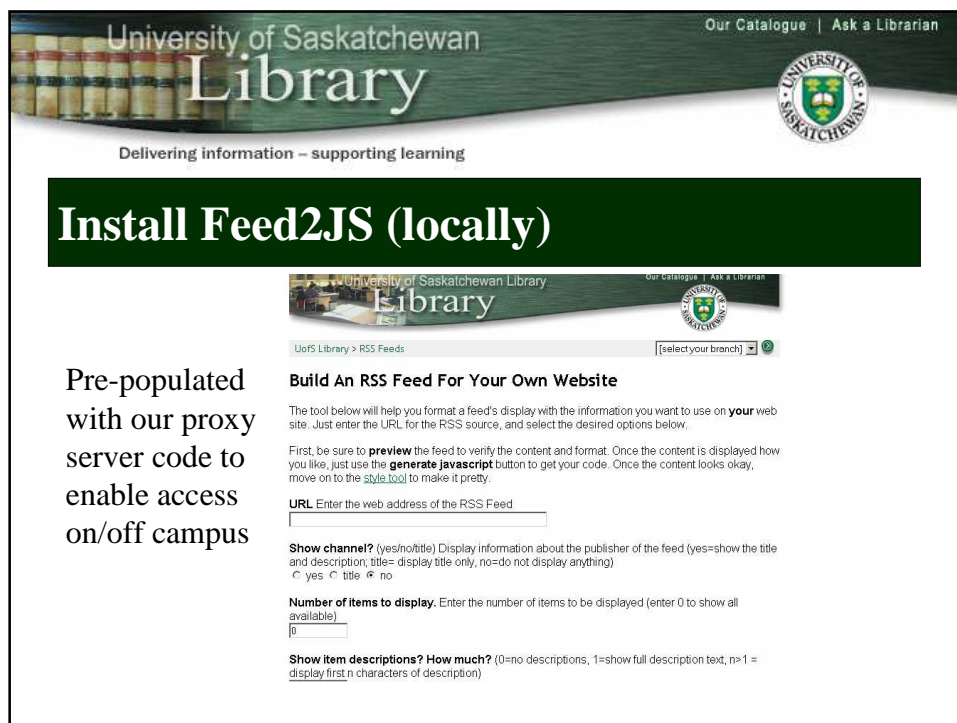


Feed2JS in action with a search result form
del.icio.us

Web
based
style
tool
to create
the style
sheet



<http://allrss.com/delicious.html>



The screenshot shows the University of Saskatchewan Library website. At the top, it says "University of Saskatchewan Library" and "Delivering information – supporting learning". There are links for "Our Catalogue" and "Ask a Librarian". The main heading is "Install Feed2JS (locally)". Below this is a smaller version of the library website header. The main content area is titled "Build An RSS Feed For Your Own Website". It includes instructions: "The tool below will help you format a feed's display with the information you want to use on your web site. Just enter the URL for the RSS source, and select the desired options below." It also has a "preview" button and a "generate javascript" button. There are input fields for "URL" and "Number of items to display".

Pre-populated with our proxy server code to enable access on/off campus

Build An RSS Feed For Your Own Website

The tool below will help you format a feed's display with the information you want to use on your web site. Just enter the URL for the RSS source, and select the desired options below.

First, be sure to **preview** the feed to verify the content and format. Once the content is displayed how you like, just use the **generate javascript** button to get your code. Once the content looks okay, move on to the [style tool](#) to make it pretty.

URL Enter the web address of the RSS Feed

Show channel? (yes/no/title) Display information about the publisher of the feed (yes=show the title and description, title= display title only, no=do not display anything)

yes title no

Number of items to display. Enter the number of items to be displayed (enter 0 to show all available)

Show item descriptions? How much? (0=no descriptions, 1=show full description text, n>1 = display first n characters of description)



The screenshot shows the University of Saskatchewan Library website. At the top, it says "University of Saskatchewan Library" and "Delivering information – supporting learning". There are links for "Our Catalogue" and "Ask a Librarian". The main heading is "Feedsplitter (locally)". Below this is a list of three bullet points describing the tool.

Feedsplitter (locally)

- ◆ RSS to HTML to JavaScript newsreader for posting feeds on your web site
- ◆ Download and install locally
- ◆ Written in PHP

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RSS Digest (remote)

- Nice, newer service
- Insert feed with JavaScript, PHP, or an IFRAME

RSS Digest

Easily put updating RSS links & headlines on your Web site

What is RSS Digest?
Place items and headlines from any RSS or Atom enabled site (such as del.icio.us or Flickr) onto your site, *no programming required*. It can use JavaScript, PHP, or an IFRAME as the inclusion method, so **anyone** can use it. Get **no ugly ads**, and use **ANY valid feed!**

To generate a digest, enter the URL of an RSS or Atom feed:

OR select a pre-defined feed:
Slashdot - Technical news & stories

Example Feeds

- Livebookmark - Gives an Add It...
- RSS Feed from IBC Computer S...
- 2000 and Attention and WOSFEI
- Going My Way - 自由ソフトの...
- RSS & Web
- NOAA - National Weather Servic...
- RSS Validator RSS/RDF 阅读器
- The Filter Vat - Personal Medi...
- Making An RSS Feed
- RSS Reader Plugins

Links above from del.icio.us's RSS section, updated hourly by RSS Digest.

What's new in version 2?
Version 2 is no simple reorganization of version 1. RSS Digest 2 features:

As of 29th January 2005, 3442 digests are reading 2434 unique feeds and receiving approx. 100,000 requests per day.

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RSS Digest Demo

- ◆ **Amazon Feeds**
 - <http://xml.amazon.com/onca/xml3?mode=books&bcm=Books%3A%20Arts%20%26%20Photography&t=webservices-20&dev-t=amznRss&type=lite&page=1&ct=text/xml&sort=+salesrank&f=http://xml.amazon.com/xsl/xml-rss091.xsl&BrowseNodeSearch=1>
- ◆ **RSS Digest**
 - Cut and paste
 - Choose layout
- ◆ **Paste your code in your web page**
 - <http://library.usask.ca/~fichter/rss/digest.html>

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RSS Feeds and Bookmark Services

- ◆ Already mentioned del.icio.us
- ◆ Furl
 - www.furl.net
 - Bookmarks and store in categories
 - Considering it for workflow for Aboriginal Portal

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Keep Resource Pages and Links Updated

Home
Presentations
Digital Projects
Data Library
Consulting
General Info

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Finding Library Weblogs

Compiled by Darlene Fichter

Library Weblogs

- [Library Weblogs - Libdex](#)
- [Library and Information Science: Organizational - Open Directory](#)
- [Library Weblogs by Type of Library](#) - libraries doing good things with blogs

Librarian Weblogs

- [Library Weblogs By Country - Libdex](#)
- [Library and Information Science: Personal - Open Directory](#)
- See related resources for more tools on finding blogs

Library Related Collaborative Weblogs

- [Library and Information Science: Collaborative - Open Directory](#)

◆ **Library Weblog News & Links** DATE TIME FEED

January 21, 2005
[BlogB - Susan Herzog #](#)
January 16, 2005

FURL links →

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Urchin – RSS Aggregator

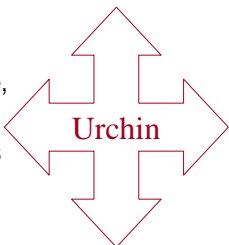
- ◆ <http://urchin.sourceforge.net/>
- ◆ Primary purpose is to create **new feeds by running queries**
- ◆ Web based, customizable, RSS aggregator and filter
- ◆ Written in Perl
- ◆ GNU public license


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Example of an Urchin Database

INPUTS	Urchin	OUTPUTS
◆ General news feeds (NYT, Yahoo!, ...)		◆ 'Keyword-specific' search engine RSS feeds
◆ Journal news feeds (Science, Biometrics)		◆ Personalized "news" pages
◆ Local content and databases		◆ Subject specific pages
◆ Information 'scraped' from selected web pages		◆ News Alerts




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More Tools, More Feeds

- ◆ Find out more:
 - RSS Compendium
 - ◆ allrss.com



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Add It Today - Anything Episodic

- ◆ Weather forecasts
 - <http://library.usask.ca/~fichter/rss/saskatoonweather.html>
- ◆ Sports scores
- ◆ Traffic updates
- ◆ Overdue books

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Conclusion


- ◆ Lots of tools
- ◆ Right tool for programmer types and push button publishers
- ◆ Lots of opportunity
- ◆ Start to think in Technicolor
 - What if ?

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Questions



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